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978-1-107-03783-0 - The Hindu Family and the Emergence of Modern India: Law, Citizenship and Community

Eleanor Newbigin

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The Hindu Family and the Emergence of Modern India

Law, Citizenship and Community

Between 1955 and 1956 the Government of India passed four Hindu Law Acts to reform and codify Hindu family law. Scholars have understood these acts as a response to growing concern about women's rights but, in a powerful re-reading of their history, this book traces the origins of the Hindu law reform project to changes in the political economy of late colonial rule.

The Hindu Family and the Emergence of Modern India considers how questions regarding family structure, property rights and gender relations contributed to the development of representative politics, and how in solving these questions, India's secular and state power structures were consequently drawn into a complex and unique relationship with Hindu law.

In this comprehensive and illuminating resource for scholars and students, Eleanor Newbigin demonstrates the significance of gender and economy to the history of twentieth-century democratic government, as it emerged in India, and beyond.

ELEANOR NEWBIGIN is lecturer in Modern South Asian History at SOAS, University of London, where she teaches courses on colonial and postcolonial South Asian history.

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107037830

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First published 2013

Printed in the United Kingdom by CPI Group Ltd, Croydon CR0 4YY

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data

Newbigin, Eleanor, 1980–

The Hindu family and the emergence of modern India : law, citizenship and community / Eleanor Newbigin.

pages cm. – (Cambridge studies in Indian history and society)

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 978-1-107-03783-0 (Hardback)

1. Families–India–History–21st century. 2. Hindus–India–Social life and customs. 3. Hindus–Legal status, laws, etc. 4. Patriarchy–India. 5. Women–India. I. Title.

HQ1742.N4893 2013

306.850954–dc23 2013010577

ISBN 978-1-107-03783-0 Hardback

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Acknowledgements

This book is the result of a research project that began more than a decade ago. I would like to thank the many impressive people who have worked with me and helped me during this time.

I owe most to my original supervisor, Raj Chandavarkar, who first encouraged me to pursue doctoral research and who continues to drive me now, even after his death in April 2006. I am lucky to have worked with him for the years that I did but I deeply regret not having been able to share with him this final manifestation of our many conversations. Knowing his perfectionism and critical sharpness, the production of this book would have undoubtedly been more painful had he been able to be more involved. I am certain, however, that the end result would have benefited from his input and hope that he would not disagree with or challenge too many ideas within this book.

I am also deeply grateful to William Gould, with whom I worked after Raj died. Will took over supervision of my project on the basis that the thesis was ‘almost there’, a supposition that quickly proved to be false. Much of this work took on its final form under his excellent guidance and support, as a supervisor, colleague and friend.

This book would not exist were it not for the generous funding I received from Trinity College, Cambridge, first in terms of the Internal Graduate Studentship and Pre-research Linguistic Studentship that I was awarded as a doctoral student, and then, from 2007 and 2010, as a Junior Research Fellow at the College. As well as this financial support, the College and its fellowship provided me with a rich academic environment from which I have drawn much intellectual stimulation. In particular I would like to thank Joya Chatterji and David Washbrook who nurtured and encouraged me throughout my time at Trinity and beyond. I am also very grateful to the staff of the History Department at New York University who hosted me as a visiting scholar between February and May 2010, a position that provided invaluable opportunities for me to develop key aspects of this manuscript. In September 2010 I took up the post of Lecturer in the History Department at SOAS, University of London,

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where I have been able to develop another inspiring and invigorating intellectual home. I owe huge thanks to the friendship and support I receive from all my colleagues, and especially from my Head of Department John Parker. I must also include a very special note of thanks to Shabnum Tejani, with whom it is simply a privilege and pleasure to work.

I received skilled assistance and help in my research from the staff of the Oriental and India Office Collections at the British Library in London; the University and Squire Law Libraries in Cambridge; the SOAS Library in London; and the National Archives of India and the Nehru Memorial Library in Delhi. Kevin Greenbank, Barbara Roe, Rachel Rowe and Jan Thulbourn at the Centre of South Asian Studies in Cambridge went far beyond the call of duty, providing me with a critical institutional and intellectual home during my time at Cambridge. At Cambridge University Press (CUP), I would like to thank Marigold Ackland for accepting my proposal, and Lucy Rhymer and Rachel Cox for all their hard work and huge patience in overseeing this book's production. I am also very grateful to the copy editorial team at CUP who have helped to make this book much more professional, consistent and correct than it would have been otherwise. Any errors that remain are, of course, my own.

Many of the arguments that make their way into this book have grown out of intense discussion with Taylor Sherman. I am immensely grateful for her friendship and intellectual generosity, which helped to ensure both my productivity and my mental health during several long research trips in India. Jennifer Davis has provided me with something that goes far beyond friendship. A source of sage advice and critical insight, her ideas and input have influenced my thinking in ways that I cannot properly acknowledge in the pages that follow. Manu Goswami was the most generous host in New York, providing both academic and extra-curricular engagement as well as a number of amazing meals. Thanks are also due to Greg Grandin for allowing me to use his office during my stay – a place of calm peace where I was able to prepare the earliest draft of this manuscript. I am very grateful to Leigh Denault, Mitra Sharafi and Rohit De, all of whom have played formative roles in helping me to shape my project and to think in more sophisticated ways about legal history.

Over the last decade, I have benefited greatly from discussions with eminent colleagues and teachers. In particular I would like to thank David Arnold, Chris Bayly, Fasial Devji, Durba Ghosh, Dilip Menon, Polly O'Hanlon, Francesca Orsini, Peter Robb, Emma Rothschild, Mrinalini Sinha, Samita Sen and Amartya Sen.

Constraints of space, and perhaps my own English character, prevent me from detailing my individual debts to the wonderful friends and

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colleagues I have made in the course of writing this book, but I am well aware of how much poorer my intellectual and social life would be without Sadaf Aziz, Rachel Berger, Joel Cabrita, Chanchal Dadlani, Emma Hunter, Humeira Iqtidar, Justin Jones, Sunalini Kumar, Stephen Legg, Rosie Peppin-Vaughn, Mina Rajagopalan, Pedro Ramos-Pinto, Nate Roberts, Udit Sen, Ornit Shani, Penny Sinanoglou, Rupa Viswanath, Erica Wald and Philippa Williams. I am also most grateful to Vikram and Anu Sharma and their family in Delhi for looking after me so well over many years during my trips to India.

The theme of 'family' has been as important for the production of the book as it is central to its argument. The support I have received from my mother, father and step-father has sustained me throughout my studies and the writing of this manuscript. Their willingness to read drafts and rehearse my thoughts and arguments with me is truly remarkable. Dedicating this book to them feels like a small gesture that only begins to convey my sense of gratitude. I would also like to thank my sister, Flora, for being so willing to talk through aspects of Hindu law and income tax, but also for knowing when it was time to bring such conversations to a close and engage with other important aspects of life. The extension of my family in recent years has brought me fantastic in-laws and I would like to thank Richard and Honor for all their care and support. Last, but by no means least, I would like to thank Matthew, for real partnership and for making everything so straightforward.

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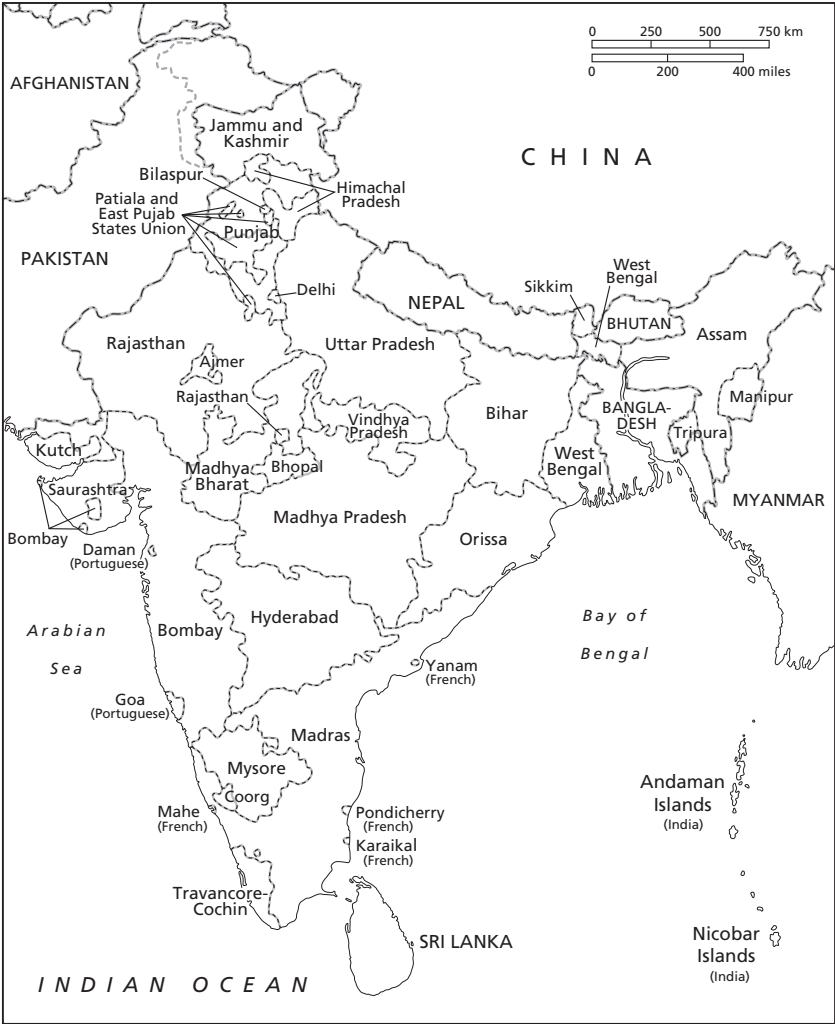
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Abbreviations

AICC	All-India Congress Committee
AIR	<i>All India Reporter</i>
	[All] – Allahabad Court
	[Bom] – Bombay Court
	[Cal] – Calcutta Court
	[Mad] – Madras Court
AIWC	All-India Women’s Conference
Bom L.R.	<i>Bombay Law Reports</i>
CAID	<i>Constituent Assembly of India Debates</i>
CAI(L)D	<i>Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) Debates</i>
CSD	<i>Council of State Debate</i>
EPW	<i>Economic and Political Weekly Journal</i>
HLRRA	Hindu Law Research and Reform Association
IA	<i>Law Reports – Indian Appeals</i>
IESHR	Indian Economic and Social History Review (Journal)
IOR	India Office Records, British Library, London
ITR	Income Tax Reports
LAD	<i>Legislative Assembly Debates</i>
LCD	<i>Legislative Council Debates</i>
LSD	<i>Lok Sabha Debates</i>
MLJ	Madras Law Journal
	[FC] – Federal Court
NAI	National Archives of India
NMML	Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi
PD	<i>Parliamentary Debates</i>
SWJN	<i>Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru</i>
UCC	Uniform Civil Code
UP	Uttar Pradesh



Map 1 British India 1909



Map 2 India 1951